

10/534946

JC20 PCT/PTO 11 MAY 2005

94326

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re U.S. Patent Application )

Applicant: Takashi YOKOYAMA et al. )

Serial No.: Unassigned )

Filed: May 11, 2005 )

For: SILICON WAFER, ITS MANUFACTURING METHOD,  
AND ITS MANUFACTURING APPARATUS )INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97, a list of documents is disclosed on the attached Form PTO-1449 that may be material to the examination of this application. The cited references are enclosed herewith.

Documents for which the supplied date of publication lists the year of publication without the month were published sufficiently earlier than the effective U.S. filing date and any foreign priority date, so that the particular month of publication is not in issue. Pursuant to §609 of the MPEP, it is understood that the month of publication is not required when the particular month of publication is not in issue.

No inferences should be drawn that the attached list represents a comprehensive investigation, or that any material disclosed is equivalent to the subject invention. In addition, none of the documents that have publication dates prior to the priority date of the above application anticipate the invention in this application.

Applicant also encloses a copy of the PCT Search Report and references cited therein.

The cited document(s) disclose numerous specific features. There has been no attempt to list each

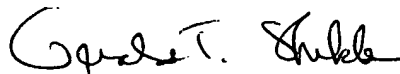
Atty. Docket: 94326

and every feature disclosed by each document. The Examiner is requested to review the document(s) and determine the extent of the materiality of the document disclosures with respect to the present invention.

The discussion of any art and the citation of any document(s) herein is not to be construed as an admission that the art or document disclosure is necessarily within the invention field of endeavor, that the art or document disclosure is necessarily prior in time to a particular date which may be relevant to the instant patent application, and/or that the art or document disclosure is otherwise necessarily prior art as defined by the patent law with respect to the instant invention and application.

Also, there is reserved the right to later set forth how the instant invention is distinguished over the disclosure of any document or other art, including the disclosures of the art and document(s) recited herein, that may be cited by the Examiner in rejecting a claim in the instant patent application. The recitation herein of the art and document(s) is not to be construed as an assertion that more pertinent art could not possibly be in existence.

Respectfully submitted,



---

Gerald T. Shekleton  
Registration No. 27,466

Dated: May 11, 2005

**WELSH & KATZ, LTD.**

120 South Riverside Plaza  
22nd Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60606  
Telephone: 312-655-1500

